



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Pain Awareness Month

WHEREAS, pain is one of the most frequent complaints encountered by healthcare professionals, and the Institute of Medicine's 2011 Pain Report estimates that nearly 100 million Americans live with pain caused by various injuries, diseases and disorders; and

WHEREAS, chronic pain is the leading cause of lost work days, and costs the nation an estimated \$100 billion in lost productivity and increases in health care every year; in Rhode Island it costs millions in not only lost productivity, but takes a financial and emotional toll on patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Pain Foundation represents over 35,000 members throughout the country, and it is their mission to inform, empower and advocate on behalf of those who live with chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Pain Foundation provides positive-structured support groups teaching pain management skills and constructive ways to cope with pain and find fulfillment in life; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Pain Foundation recognizes the challenges those with pain face and thus created the national pain awareness campaign entitled, the INvisible Project; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness about the effects of chronic pain not only help facilitate better outcomes and increase access to proper pain care, but also empowers and validates those living with pain; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim September 2012 as Pain Awareness Month in the State of Rhode Island and call on all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 14th day of August, 2012

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State